

## Heroic Medic Awarded Bronze Star

By Capt. Jayson Morgan  
1-8 Cav. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- On April 5, 2004 Spc. Taylor Burk demonstrated his personal courage and loyalty to his fellow Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion 8th Cavalry Regiment.

The same day his unit took control of the Al Dora sector of Abu Dashir, he and his fellow Soldiers came under fire from anti-Iraqi forces. The contact grew into a large five-hour fire-fight with more than 150 anti-Iraqi forces.

During the battle, the vehicle Burk was in came under attack from several different locations. The gunner was hit in the leg and the face. Burk immediately began to render aid to his fallen comrade. He applied a

tourniquet to the Soldier's leg, which undoubtedly saved his life. It wasn't until later on at the hospital that anybody realized Burk also had been hit.

He had taken a bullet in his heel which damaged his bone. Burk received a Purple Heart Medal and the Combat Medical Badge (CMB) while he was in the hospital. He was the first medic in his battalion to earn the CMB.

Burk spent several months in the United States recuperating from his injury. On Oct. 27 he returned to Forward Operating Base Falcon and was presented the Bronze Star he had earned back in April.

Burk was also the first Soldier in 1-8 Cavalry to earn the Bronze Star. When questioned about his actions that day Burk humbly replied, "I



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Spc. Taylor Burk of Company C, 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, receives the Bronze Star for Valor Oct. 27 after returning back to Baghdad from the United States where he was recovering from wounds received during a firefight April 5.

just did my job."

Burk represents the values that make our Army the

best in the world. He is a hero who exemplifies what right looks like.

## Gunner Keeps Cool in the Face of Danger

By Sgt. John Queen  
3rd BCT Public Affairs

BAGHDAD, Iraq -- At first, the Oct. 19 patrol seemed routine. McShane a resident of Batesville, Ark. and an infantryman assigned to Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Regiment said the mission started out boring and fairly quiet. The Soldiers of 1st Platoon said the only unusual thing that night was the large amount of people outside, which the Soldiers attributed to Ramadan observances.

"We were just doing presence patrols in our zone," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Martin, truck commander for McShane's vehicle. "Traffic was minimal. We had just talked to the lead truck in the patrol - we had about 10 minutes left on the patrol and were getting ready to roll back in."

As the two-gun trucks entered a traffic circle McShane heard yelling in Arabic to his right. From the commotion McShane thought a fight had broken

**"McShane never lost control of his gun, his reactions or his own emotions. He never let security fail."**

**-Sgt. 1st Class Mark Martin  
B. Co., 1-153 Inf., 3BCT**

out.

"I turned my spotlight on them," McShane said. "There was a red BMW parked there with three guys in the back seat. They were staring right at me."

Next to the car and on both sides of the street was a crowd of people watching as the patrol drove past. As McShane's spotlight hit them, the darkness lit up with a flash and a deafening

explosion.

The blast slammed into the 12,000-pound armored truck, sliding it sideways nearly two and a half feet to the right. Rocks, glass and shrapnel shot through the air with deadly force, puncturing the trucks radiator and oil cooler.

Seeing the explosion, the lead vehicle sped forward to a safe distance to watch over and provide security for the disabled vehicle.

In the truck's gun turret, small fragments peppered McShane cutting into the right side of his face. The back of his body armor deflected one piece that left a two-inch rip in the vest's thick fabric.

"I could feel shrapnel and debris flying by me," he said. "I couldn't do anything about it."

As the concussion rocked the truck, McShane was thrown around inside the turret before falling back into the truck..

"The blast stunned us to the point we lost track of everything," said Cpl. Richard Brewer, McShane's team leader

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# Soldier Maintains Security Despite Injuries

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who was sitting behind the driver, Spc. Charles Hopkins.

As McShane fell back into the gunners' hatch he yelled, "I'm hit!"

Brewer quickly shined his flashlight on McShane. Through the dusty beams of light Brewer couldn't see McShane's injuries and said, "No. You're alright."

McShane stood back up in the hatch and started providing security again. That's when he noticed the crowd was growing near their vehicle and he informed Martin.

Once they realized the engine was still running Martin yelled, "Let's go! Let's go!"

Hopkins blindly raced out of the traffic circle as Martin gave him directions. With oil spewing from the vehicle's hood, they sped up the street to the other Humvee. The growing crowd was now cheering.

"They had gathered and started moving forward as if they were going to dance on our truck," McShane said.

"I thought it was going to turn into a scene out of Blackhawk Down," Hopkins added.

Once linked up with the other truck, Hopkins turned off the engine.

"The truck for some reason ran just long enough to move us," McShane said. "When we killed the truck there was nothing left in her."

While McShane, pulled security and watched the jubilant crowd, the other Soldiers dismounted their damaged vehicle to help hook it up to the lead vehicle.

By this time, other patrols in the area and the quick reaction force (QRF) were now speeding to aid the patrol.

"There was a big crowd of people gathering behind us and it was hard to



By Sgt. John Queen, 3rd BCT Public Affairs

Spc. John McShane stands in the gunners hatch before he and other Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1-153 Infantry Regiment return to their all-night mission on the streets of Baghdad, Iraq.

tell what their intentions were," Martin said. "When you have a truck down and you see a crowd walking down the road toward you, it's not a good thing."

"McShane never got out of the gun turret," he said. "McShane never lost control of his gun, his reactions or his own emotions. He never let security fail."

As the QRF showed up the crowd had grown to more than 150 people and was moving closer to the Soldiers trying to recover their crippled vehicle. The reinforcements quickly secured the area and the crowd backed away.

"Once things kind of calmed down we saw McShane had some small shrapnel wounds to the face," Martin said. "When we realized it we got him down out of the gun."

He performed in a manner above and beyond his call of duty said 1st Sgt. Philip Johnson, McShane's first sergeant. "He was more concerned about the crowd coming down the street than his injuries."

"In my eyes I'm not the only hero," McShane said. "It could have been anybody. I'm sure anybody else would have done what I did."

## Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

What does this/that mean?

maa maAHnaa haaza?

### Thursday

High: 78  
Low: 62



### Friday

High: 82  
Low: 64



### Saturday

High: 84  
Low: 74



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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## News Notes

### Monkeys Named for Bush, Kerry

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) -- Two baby marmosets, who made their debut at the Blank Park Zoo on Monday, have been named George and John - for President George W. Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry. "We wanted to find a unique way to commemorate the times the presidential candidates monkeyed around in Iowa," quipped Terry Rich, chief executive officer at the zoo. The tiny monkeys, born eight weeks ago, are twins - not that uncommon in marmosets, Rich said. They were kept under close watch until deemed healthy enough to put on exhibit - which just happened to fall on the eve of Tuesday's election.

### Can't Drink Coffee in the Shop Area?

SCHILLER PARK, Ill. (AP) -- A man was accused of placing hazardous chemicals in his company's coffeepot, according to authorities. Kemarat Vathananand was angry at a vice president of Schiller Park-based Castle Metal Finishing Corp. who told him he could not drink coffee in the shop area, investigators said. Vathananand, now on bail, is accused of placing sodium dimethyldithiocarbamate, lead acetate and urine in the coffeepots. Employees first noticed a bitter taste in the coffee three months ago, and bought new coffeepots. When that didn't help, an employee ran a test on a sample of coffee, and it came back positive for lead acetate. No one at the company became seriously ill.

## White House 'Convinced' of Bush Victory

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Bush crept close to re-election early Wednesday, leading challenger John Kerry in a campaign cliffhanger framed by war in Iraq and joblessness at home. Ohio held the key, stirring echoes of Florida in 2000, but this time Bush's advantage was substantial.

With a majority of the popular vote in hand, the Republican president planned to declare victory early Wednesday. "We are convinced that President Bush has won re-election," White House chief of staff Andrew Card said shortly before dawn in the East.

Ceding nothing, Kerry went to bed without conceding. "We will fight for every vote," his running mate, Sen. John Edwards, told supporters in Boston.

The race was remarkably similar to the 2000 campaign, Bush winning all but one of the states he carried four years ago, while Kerry picked up where



Crystal Y'Barbo of Nacogdoches, Texas, front right, cheers as the crowd watches election returns early Wednesday at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington. AP

Democrat Al Gore left off. Three states hung in the balance - New Mexico, Iowa and Ohio, but only the Buckeye State had enough electoral votes to make a difference.

Ceding nothing, Kerry dispatched Edwards to tell supporters: "We've waited four years for this victory. We can

wait one more night."

Nationwide, with 97 percent of the nation's precincts reporting, some 112 million people had voted - up from 105 million in 2000.

Bush was winning the popular vote by around 3.6 million, or 51 percent to Kerry's 48 percent.

## Voters Approve Plan for New Cowboys Stadium

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) -- Hang up your cleats and make yourselves comfortable, Dallas Cowboys. This will soon be your new home.

The NFL's most storied franchise scored a major victory at the polls Tuesday - to the tune of \$325 million - as voters in this city halfway between Dallas and Fort Worth approved paying for half of a 75,000-seat, retractable-roof stadium.

"This is a historic moment for America's Team and for the economy of the region," said Rob Allyn, head of the public relations firm that handled the pro-stadium campaign for the Cowboys.

The decision means the Cowboys will move to Arlington when the team's lease at Texas Stadium in Irving, where Dallas has played since 1971, expires in 2008.

Chants of "Jerry! Jerry! Jerry!" greeted Cowboys owner Jerry Jones at a victory rally by the Vote Yes! A Win for Arlington Committee, the pro-stadium group into which the team pumped more than \$5 million.

"Well, I'm going to be brief. You know that's hard for me to do, but if I can stay in the closet as long as I have stayed in it the last few weeks, I can do it," joked Jones.

With at least three-fourths of Arlington's ballots counted Tuesday night, 55 percent of voters supported the city's proposition to increase sales, hotel and motel, and car-rental taxes to

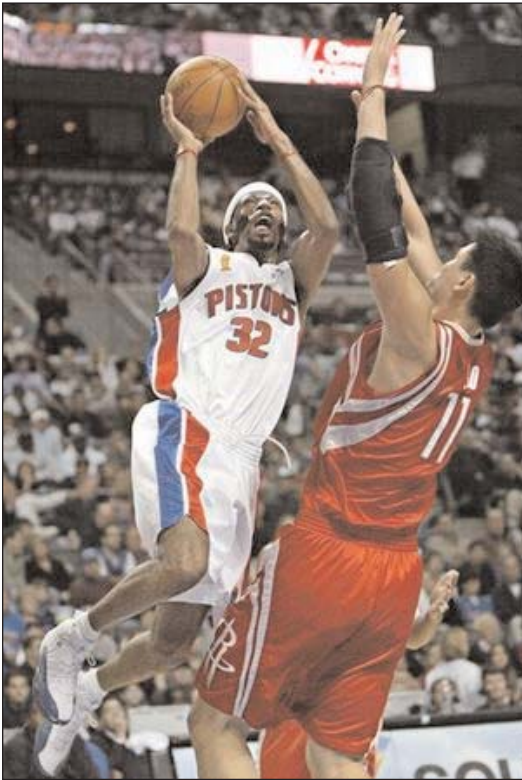


Photo courtesy of www.football.com

Texas Stadium in Arlington, Texas will no longer be the home to the Dallas Cowboys. Voters in Arlington agreed to pay for half of the costs of a new stadium for the Cowboys to be built in their city.

lure the Cowboys. Both sides predicted the margin of victory would increase, as opponents had banked their hopes of derailing the plan on early voting figures, which showed solid support for the stadium.

The \$650 million stadium will be built next to the Texas Rangers' Ameritrust Field and near the Six Flags Over Texas amusement park, creating what city leaders envision as a sports and entertainment mecca. Arlington is about 15 miles west of Dallas, but the team will still be called the Dallas Cowboys.



<sup>AP</sup>  
Detroit Pistons Richard Hamilton (32) drives on Houston Rockets center Yao Ming (11), of China, in the third quarter in Auburn Hills, Mich., Tuesday.

## Pistons Defend Title in Season's 1st Game

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) -- The defending NBA champion Detroit Pistons are a tough match for any dynamic duo.

Rasheed Wallace, one of five Pistons to score in double figures, had 24 points to help Detroit defeat the Houston Rockets 87-79 Tuesday night in the first game of the NBA season.

"A lot of people are still doubting us, so I guess we just have to go win it all again," Wallace said.

Tracy McGrady and Yao Ming, playing their first regular-season game together, found out what Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal did during their final five games together with the Los Angeles Lakers: The Pistons, relentless on defense and well-balanced on offense, are difficult to beat.

McGrady missed 12 of 18 shots and finished with 18 points after scoring just three during the first half. Yao had just seven points on 2-of-9 shooting.

"They play 'D'. That's why they won a championship," McGrady said. "They did a great job of picking up the intensity in the second half, and they hit shots in the fourth."

Detroit's entire starting lineup from last season is back, and all five players scored at least 10. Aside from Rasheed Wallace's big night on 10-of-19 shooting, Chauncey Billups had 17, Hamilton scored 15, Ben Wallace had 15 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

## Red Sox' Pitcher, Martinez, Files for Free Agency

BOSTON (AP) -- Red Sox star Pedro Martinez filed for free agency Tuesday, a week after his Game 3 victory helped Boston win its first World Series title since 1918.

Martinez just completed a \$90 million, seven-year contract. The Red Sox have exclusive negotiating rights with him until Nov. 11, the day before other teams can discuss money with the three-time Cy Young Award winner.

"If they don't get me, it's probably because they didn't try hard enough," Martinez said after what might have been his final start in a Red Sox uniform. "My heart is with Boston."

Martinez joins more than a dozen members of the World Series champions headed for the free-agent market, including pitcher Derek Lowe, catcher Jason Varitek and shortstop Orlando Cabrera.



<sup>AP</sup>  
Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez celebrates after the third out in the seventh inning during Game 3 of the World Series against the Cardinals last month.

"I hope I get another chance to come back with this team, but if I don't, I understand the business part of it," Martinez said. "I just hope that many other people understand that I wasn't the one that wanted to leave. I'm only doing what I have to do."

If he does leave, he

would do so as one of the best pitchers in Red Sox history - and one of its most colorful.

After beating the Yankees early in the 2002 season, he said, "Wake up the damn Bambino. Maybe I'll drill him." But this year the losses to New York piled up and he seemed more resigned.

"What can I say - just tip my hat and call the Yankees my daddy," Martinez said after a Sept. 24 loss. "I can't find a way to beat them at this point. ... I wish they would disappear and not come back."

"It's been a great ride," Martinez said after his World Series debut. "I hope everybody enjoyed it as much as I did. Even with the struggles that I've had up and down during the season, I really enjoyed it. I enjoyed every moment."

## In Brief

### Former Raider Hates Tigers?

Las Vegas (AP) -- Police say a former player for the Oakland Raiders football team wanted for an alleged drive-by shooting at the home of entertainers Siegfried & Roy has been taken into custody. Cole Ford, 31, was captured without incident Tuesday afternoon at a Las Vegas copy store after a woman tipped off authorities that he was inside the business. Ford, whose three-year NFL career ended in 1997, was named in a felony warrant stemming from the Sept. 21 shooting. Ford faces six felony warrant charges of discharging a firearm from a motor vehicle and two felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon.

### Paris... Hilton... Sitting in a Tree...

(MSNBC) -- Someone is spreading rumors that Paris Hilton has a girlfriend. The rumor spreader? Paris Hilton herself. The partying heiress was at a Halloween party at the Playboy mansion when a female fan came up and asked Hilton if she could kiss her. "Paris pointed to a girl with her and said, 'This is my girlfriend she gets really mad,'" says our source. The source says that while Paris was clearly using her "girlfriend" to deflect the overly zealous fan, the two were cozy for much of the evening. "Paris wouldn't let go of the girl," says the insider. "Paris kept her arms around her at the bar in between chain-smoking."